

# Strategic Schools of Thought

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U.S. Air Force

**Theorists:**   **Giullio Douhet**  
                  **William “Billy” Mitchell**  
                  **Sir Hugh Trenchard**  
                  **Alexander De Seversky**

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U.S. Air Force

**Douhet: long-range bombers secure  
command of the air**

**Trenchard: air control; policing the Empire**

**Mitchell: air force dominates future warfare**

*Strategic Bombardment*

David MacIsaac

**De Seversky: Clear dominance of the air  
puts everything else subordinate**

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U.S. Air Force

## **Strategic bombardment:**

- **Penetrates the enemy's defense**
- **Destroys his war making industry**
- **Defeats army on the ground**
- **Reduces cities to smoldering ruins**

**Destroys the enemy's will to resist  
and brings about victory**

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U.S. Air Force

**Bombers will always get through!!**

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**U.S. Navy**

**Theorists: Alfred Thayer Mahan  
Sir John Corbett**

- **Strong Navy to ensure lifeblood of the nation**
- **First defense against invasion**
- **Troop deployments, support and sustainment**

# Strategic Schools of Thought

**U.S. Navy**

**Technological development  
provides ‘carrier task force’**

**Striking Power of the Fleet**

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U.S. Navy

*“Forward from the Sea”*



# Strategic Schools of Thought

**U.S. Army**

**Never professed a ‘theory of land power’ or a ‘continental strategy’**

**“... its circumstances ... deny it the freedom to define war on its own terms.”**

Carl Builder

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**U.S. Army**

**Operational approach is to  
confront the enemy, destroy with  
overwhelming firepower using a  
multitude of weapons systems.**

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**U.S. Army**

***“Get there firstest with the mostest”***

Nathan Bedford Forest  
Civil War leader